

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10 AID-05 OIC-02 MMO-04 EB-07

CU-04 OES-05 /126 W

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R 261127Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 335

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 17924

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEATO, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI ON SEATO

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN GAVE AN OFF-THE-CUFF PRESS CONFERENCE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AUGUST 26. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF CHATCHAI'S REMARKS PERTAINING TO SEATO

BEGIN EXCERPT.

REPORTER: THERE IS A NEWS REPORT THAT A SEATO COUNCIL MEETING AT THE LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE HELD IN NEW YORK TOWARDS THE END OF SEPTEMBER. IS THAT TRUE?

CHATCHAI: YES. IT IS THAILAND'S TURN TO PRESIDE OVER THIS SEATO COUNCIL CONFERENCE.

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REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THE SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING WILL BE THE PHASING OUT OF SEATO?

CHATCHAI: YES.

REPORTER: ARE THERE ANY OTHER SUBJECTS, IN ADDITION TO THE PHASING OUT OF SEATO, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED?

CHATCHAI: NO.

REPORTER: WILL A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION BE REQUIRED FOR THE PHASING OUT OF SEATO?

CHATCHAI: THIS SEATO COUNCIL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 24. THE SEATO SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL PROPOSE A PLAN ON WHAT ACTION OUGHT TO BE TAKEN REGARDING TO SEATO. THE TREATY WILL CONTINUE IN FORCE.

REPORTER: I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE ORGANIZATION WILL BE PHASED OUT.

CHATCHAI: OH* PHASING IT OUT IS EASY. IT WILL BE PHASED OUT GRADUALLY AND SOME UNITS WILL BE REMOVED FROM SEATO BUT RETAINED. FOR INSTANCE, THE TROPICAL DISEASES RESEARCH UNIT, WHICH IS USEFUL, WILL BE TRANSFERRED AND ATTACHED TO A HOSPITAL. EVERYTHING MUST CHANGE WITH PROPER TIMING. SINCE THE WORLD SITUATION HAS CHANGED, IT MUST BE CHANGED TO COORDINATE WITH IT.

REPORTER: WHAT IS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES?

CHATCHAI: NO VIEW HAS BEEN EXPRESSED.

REPORTER: SHOULD A MAJORITY VOTE BE ADHERED TO, SEATO HAS FOUR MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION.

CHATCHAI: IN REGARD TO REDUCING SEATO ACTIVITIES, AMERICA STARTED REDUCING ITS ACTIVITIES ABOUT 2-3 YEARS AGO. WHEN I ATTENDED A SEATO COUNCIL CONFERENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEW YORK, IN 1972 OR 1973, AMERICA STATED IT WOULD REDUCE ITS ACTIVITIES. THE SECRETARY OF STATE DID NOT ATTEND THE CONFERENCE HIMSELF BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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ENTRUSTED THE TASK TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE. AMERICA TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN REDUCING ITS ROLE. WE COULD NOT BECAUSE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION IS HERE IN THAILAND.

REPORTER: SUPPOSE SEATO IS PHASED OUT, WHAT OTHER WORK UNITS DOES IT HAVE WHICH WE CONSIDER ARE USEFUL?

CHATCHAI: THERE ARE SEVERAL WORK UNITS WHICH ARE OF IMPORTANCE,

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND MEDICAL WORK UNITS, AND AIT. THOSE WORK
UNITS WILL BE REMOVED FROM SEATO AND RETAINED. WE WOULD LIKE TO
ESTABLISH AND INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON TROPICAL DISEASES. AIT
IS EXCELLENT, AND IT IS PRAISED EVERYWHERE AS BEING AN EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION THAT IS WIDELY KNOWN AND RESPECTED IN THE FAR EAST.
WHITEHOUSE

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